

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02139 312236Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /006 W  
-----068748 312244Z /17

O 312150Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6349

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2139

FOR A/SY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: REPORT OF MISSING OR COMPROMISED CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT

REF: 5 FAM 965

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PANAMA DIVISION OFFICE BURGLARIZED  
NIGHT OF MARCH 30-31, 1978, AND SAFE CONTAINING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT  
STOLEN. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION AS REQUIRED BY 5 FAM  
965:

A. PANAMA'S A-138, DATED OCTOBER 3, 1977, SUBJECT: EMERGENCY AND  
EVACUATION PLAN FOR PANAMA, ORIGINATED BY AMEMBASSY PANAMA, COPY  
NO. 8, SECRET, AIRGRAM.

B. ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 30-31, 1978, THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINIS-  
TRATION BUILDING, LOCATED AT VIA ARGENTINA 46-70, PANAMA CITY,  
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, WAS BURGLARIZED. THE BURGLARS FORCED THEIR  
ENTRY THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR BY CUTTING A HEAVY-DUTY CHAIN AND  
BREAKING A DEADBOLT THAT HAD SECURED THE DOOR. ONCE INSIDE THEY  
RANSACKED THROUGH ALL DESKS, FILE CABINETS AND A BARLOCK AND  
PHYSICALLY RIPPED FROM THE WALL A SMALL HERRING, HALL MARVIN  
SAFE THAT HAD BEEN CEMENTED INTO THE WALL OF THE BUILDING. THE  
SAFE CONTAINED COPY NO. 8 OF PANAMA'S A-138, E&E PLAN; \$397.26 IN  
MONIES AND OTHER UNCLASSIFIED BUT SENSITIVE DOCUMENTS. THE  
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BURGLARS ALSO REMOVED TWO (2) IBM SELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS AND  
OTHER MINOR EQUIPMENT.

C. ON NOVEMBER 8, 1977, MICHAEL R. EVANS OF FHWA SIGNED FOR  
COPY NO. 8 OF PANAMA'S A-138, AT WHICH TIME THE DOCUMENT WAS TAKEN  
TO THE PANAMA DIVISION OFFICE OF THE FHWA AND SECURED IN THE SAFE.  
POST OFFICIALS ASSUMED THAT IT WAS STORED IN THE FHWA REGIONAL

OFFICE LOCATED IN A SECURED AREA IN THE CANAL ZONE. AT 0800 HOURS MARCH 31, MR. FRANK T. ALVARADO ENTERED THE DIVISION OFFICE AND OBSERVED THAT THE OFFICE HAD BEEN BURGLARIZED AND THE SAFE STOLEN. HE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED THE RSO AND THE DEPARTAMENTO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES (DENI) CONCERNING THE THEFT. (NOTE: THE DENI WAS NOT ADVISED CONCERNING THE FACT THAT A CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT (A-138) WAS IN THE SAFE. THEY WERE ADVISED CONCERNING THE MONIES AND OTHER VALUABLES.)

D. THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON IS: MR. FRANK T. ALVARADO, DIVISION ENGINEER, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE. HE WAS ADVISED BY THE RSO, C. RICHARD MAY, ON MARCH 31, 1978, NOT RPT NOT TO STORE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IN HIS BUILDING BECAUSE IT WAS NOT AN AUTHORIZED AREA.  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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